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A PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR MONTANA STATE PARKS

PREPARED BY

STATE PARKS DIVISION–
MONTANA HIGHWAY COMMISSION

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"PARKS ARE OUR LAST FRONTIER, THE LAST BIT OF OUR NATIVE LANDSCAPE WHICH WE SHOULD PROTECT, ENJOY AND PASS ON UNSPOILED TO FUTURE GENERATIONS."

William G. Wells
President
National Conference
on State Parks

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INTRODUCTION

The American way of life has changed rapidly since World War II. There has been a shift in population from the city into the suburbs and many large cities have grown together into huge metropolitan areas. Families have increased in size and due to improved drugs and medical practices people live longer. There is a general feeling of crowdedness -- more people, less space.

Salaries and spending power have increased while working time has decreased. Employees have more fringe benefits -- paid vacations and sick leave -- more leisure time. Improved transportation and highway systems have created greater mobility -- allowing people to travel farther for major vacations and for week-end outings.

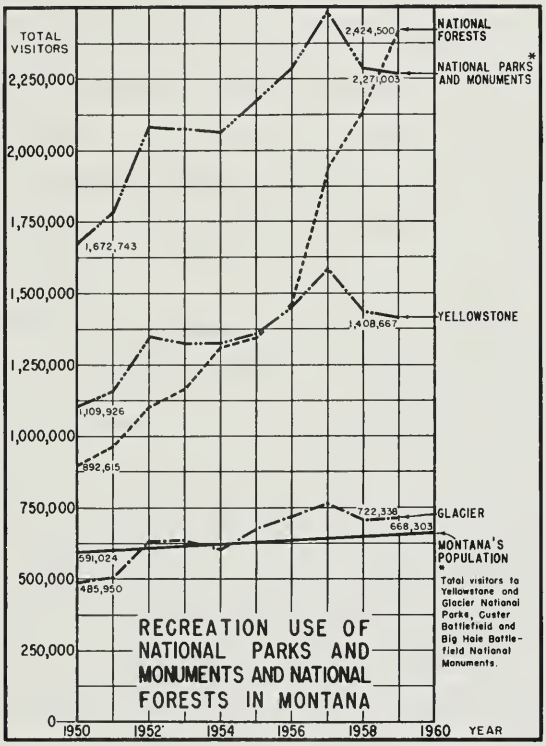
To many people, vacations are no longer considered luxuries. Laurence S. Rockefeller, Chairman of the National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission puts it this way: "We are beginning to recognize that outdoor recreation -- as a healthy, satisfying, and often creative use of leisure time -- has evolved from a luxury of a few to the necessity of the many." There is a psychological and physiological need to escape overcrowded conditions, to seek open spaces, to return to nature, and to gain new inspirations through outdoor recreation.

DO YOU KNOW THAT?

1. IN 1959 THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE FOR STATE PARKS IN THE ELEVEN WESTERN STATES WAS $0.34 PER PERSON;
2. MONTANA RESIDENTS SPENT AN AVERAGE OF $0.09 PER PERSON. THE APPROPRIATION FOR STATE PARKS IN 1959 WAS $60,000. AN ADDITIONAL $35,000 WAS EARNED FROM OPERATIONS;
3. OREGON RESIDENTS SPENT AN AVERAGE OF $1.04 PER PERSON WITH A TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF $2 MILLION;
4. STATE PARKS ARE RECOGNIZED AS STRONG MAGNETS FOR TOURISTS — THUS A REAL ECONOMIC ASSET;
5. THE STATE ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES THAT OUT-OF-STATE VISITORS SPENT NEARLY $88 MILLION IN MONTANA IN 1959;
6. THE STATE GASOLINE TAX COLLECTED FROM THE GASOLINE USED IN THE CARS OF OUT-OF-STATE VISITORS AMOUNTS TO OVER $2.5 MILLION EACH YEAR;
7. THE MONTANA STATE PARK SYSTEM HAS GROWN TO INCLUDE 22 AREAS WITH A TOTAL ACREAGE OF 9,086. THIS GROWTH HAS BEEN LARGELY WITHOUT PLANNING. IT IS A RESULT OF TRANSFERS OF LAND FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND DONATIONS FROM PUBLIC SPIRITED INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS.
8. MONTANA HAS PURCHASED ONLY 120 ACRES OF LAND FOR STATE PARKS.
9. MONTANA IS NOTED FOR ITS HISTORIC SIGNS ALONG THE HIGHWAYS BUT NOT FOR ITS PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION OF HISTORIC SITES;
10. STATE PARKS CAN PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTHFUL OUTDOOR RECREATION WHICH ARE NOT GENERALLY PROVIDED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES;

RECREATION TRENDS

Recreational Use of Montana's National Forests, Parks, and Monuments - 1950 - 1959



Since World War II visitation has more than doubled to State Parks, National Parks, National Forests, to Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Engineers reservoirs, and to most public lands which are available for outdoor recreation. If this trend continues over the next ten years, at least twice as much land will be needed for recreation purposes and the present land will require more intensive planning and utilization. The fact remains that lands most suitable for recreation are being sold for commercial development, subdivisions, industrial expansion and highways; and any remaining lands are less desireable and become more costly to acquire each year.

NATIONAL AWAKENING

Throughout the nation a strong interest in recreation is being shown in the "Mission 66" program of the National Park Service and "Operation Outdoors" of the U. S. Forest Service. These agencies have taken the lead in planned development of recreation facilities to meet the present and future needs of the park and forest visitors. In 1958 the National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission was created by Congress to make a study of the recreation needs throughout the nation and then submit their report and recommendations to Congress for further action.

These activities on the national level reflect a "National Awakening" to the needs and demands for outdoor recreation. More and more people are participating each year in recreation of all types. The resulting impact on existing recreational facilities has caused an abrupt awakening to the fact that all agencies concerned with recreation have a need for immediate development of existing areas as well as a need for long range planning to take care of future needs. The "Use" of these recreation areas by "People" is, after all, the deciding factor in what must be done in the way of planning and development. All agencies, state and federal alike, must be alert to this "Use" and this "Need" and must plan accordingly.

STATE PARTICIPATION

Many states have already completed long range state park plans which have been made available to the National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission to show their anticipated needs for recreation. All of these state park plans are dependent upon available funds for park and recreation purposes. It is possible that one recommendation of the Commission may well be to grant some form of federal aid to states which can demonstrate a need for more recreation facilities to further the well being of the people of the nation. We must determine our needs for the present and for the future and have plans prepared to meet those needs.

MONTANA'S ROLE

At the present time Montana has neither a long range plan nor the funds necessary to make a study or develop a plan. And yet Montana can play a key role in the over-all, nation-wide recreation planning. Here we have mountains, plains, forest, streams and wilderness -- an ideal combination of recreation values which can make Montana one of the most important vacation destinations for people from all over the country. To the people of the more heavily crowded eastern and western states, Montana still has the open space and wilderness, the distant views over unbroken land, and the flavor of western history to appeal to the imagination, to provide a change of pace from routine daily living, and to make a truly enjoyable vacation. These values can be easily and quickly lost if immediate steps are not taken to provide for their preservation.

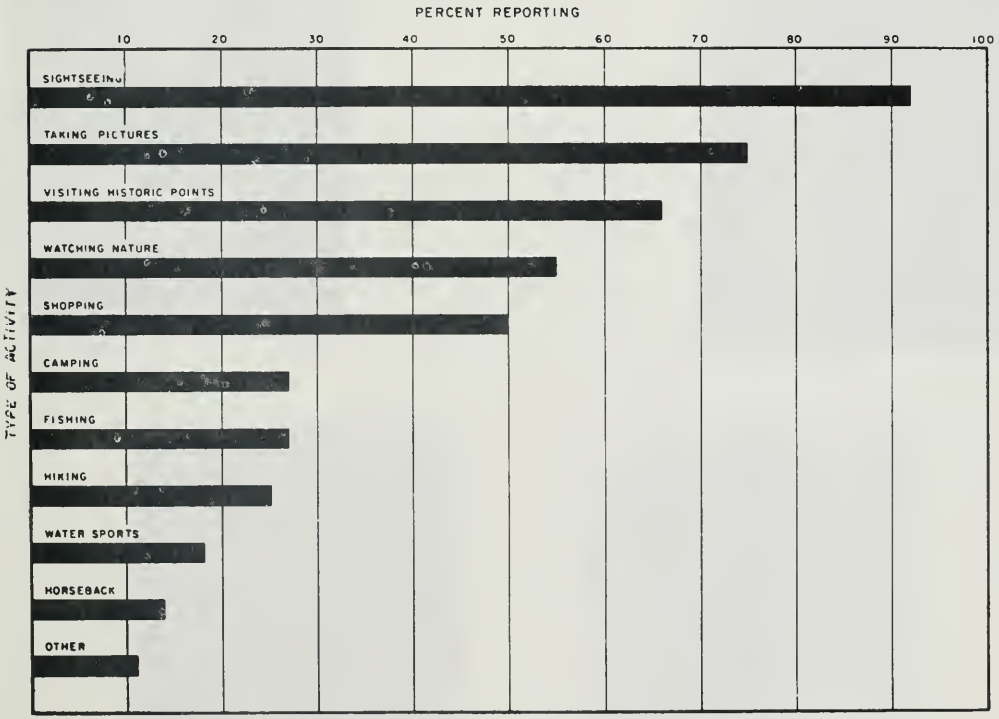
Montana Highway Department

RECREATION ACTIVITIES

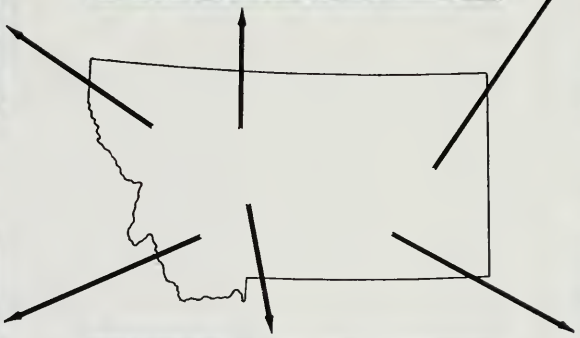
Sightseeing still tops the list of recreation activities. The desire for change, to see new things and to have new experiences stimulates vacation travel. Photography is coupled with sightseeing to record places and to relive and share with others the vacation experience through pictures.

There is a renewed interest in the historical resources of the country and historic sites have a greater visitation each year. Much of the western history of Montana is not being preserved or interpreted for the benefit and enjoyment of the visitors to the State.

ACTIVITIES REPORTED BY OUT-OF-STATE TOURISTS

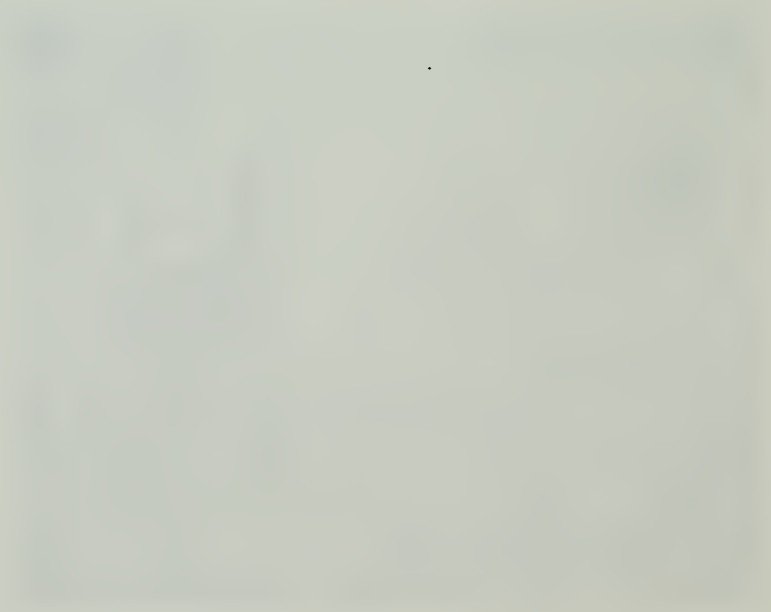


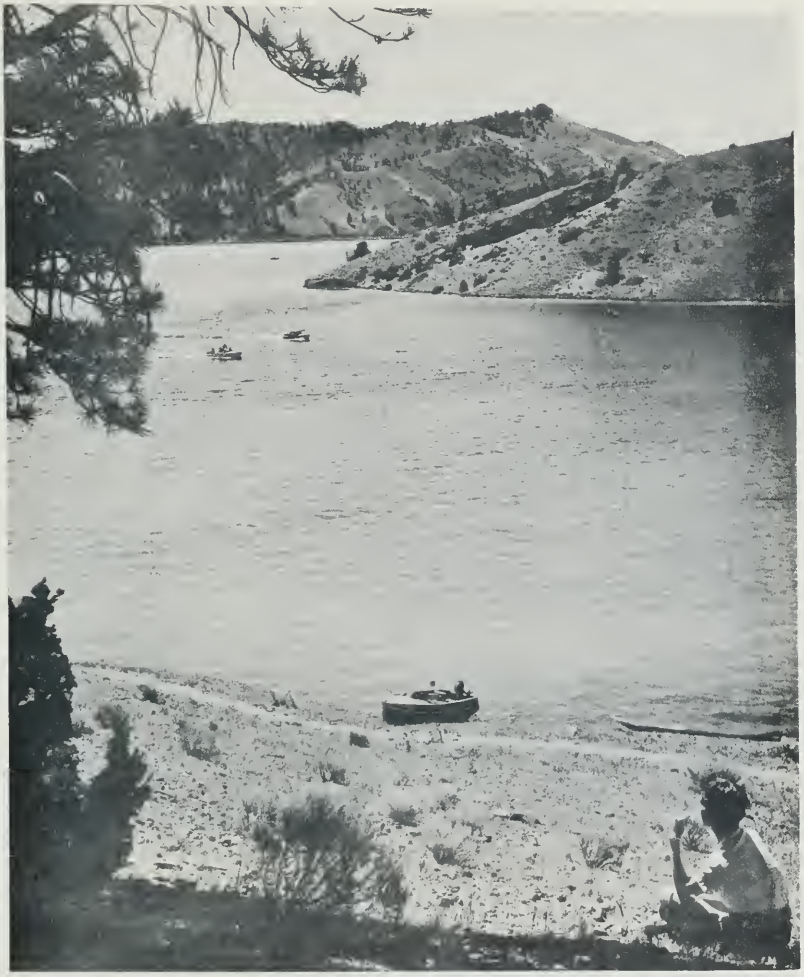
Montana Tourist Survey - 1958



Tent and trailer camping has shown a phenomenal increase in recent years. Old campgrounds are suffering from overcrowding -- erosion from human use. New campgrounds in attractive locations, designed for the future, are filled to capacity shortly after they are opened to the public. In 1958 over 27% of the Montana out-of-state visitors engaged in camping. Nearly one-half of these "campers" spent some nights in commercial accommodations. Most out-of-state campers use the more accessible campgrounds near major highways and do not seek the more isolated campgrounds on the National Forests which receive more use from local residents. These interviewed felt that there should be more campgrounds in Montana and that the existing camps needed better care especially in the area of general policing and maintenance. Picnicking is an integral part of day-outing and most available sites are heavily used -- with or without adequate facilities.

Fishing and hunting license sales show steady growth, although public fishing and hunting access is becoming more limited.



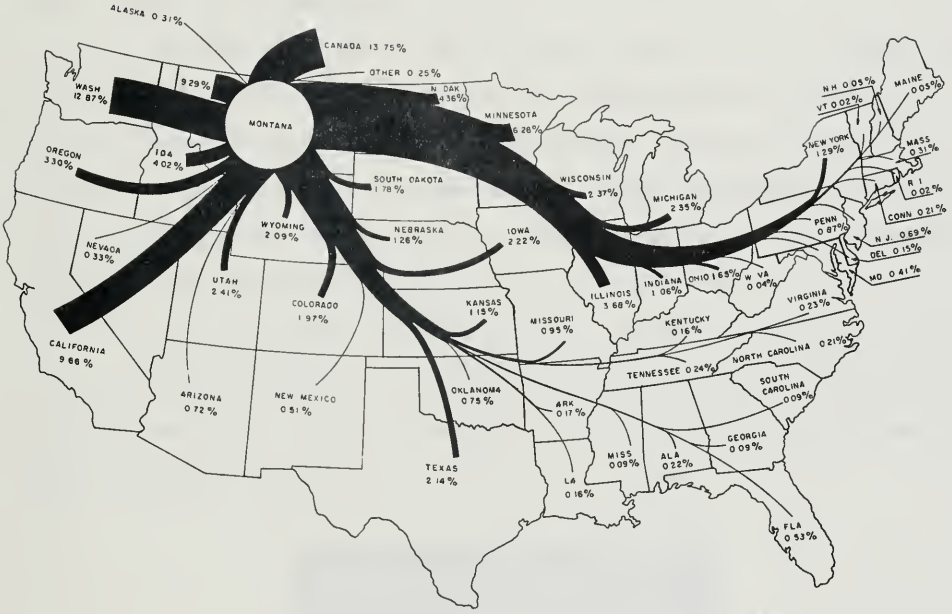


Lakes, which formerly had little use, and all new reservoirs are now crowded with water sports enthusiasts — boaters, water skiers, fishermen and swimmers. Bigger and better boats are on the market. In most households, near attractive bodies of water, boats and water skis are becoming standard equipment. It is estimated that in 1960 across the nation 2.5 billion dollars will be spent on boating alone.

Usable swimming beaches are crowded with swimmers and sunbathers although there are no planned or supervised swimming beaches in Montana. Both sanitation and water safety are becoming matters for public concern. Swimming is available at areas administered by the State Park Division on Flathead Lake, Bitterroot Lake, Whitefish Lake, Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Tiber Reservoir and Fort Peck Reservoir. Zoning and the use of buoys on some of these waters may soon be necessary to protect swimmers and fishermen from the boaters and water skiers.

ORIGIN OF TOURISTS

STATE OF ORIGIN OF TOURISTS



Montana Tourist Survey - 1958

It is interesting to note that the majority of visitors to Montana come from Canada and the western United States. They enjoy being out-of-doors and like parks located on lakes and streams where they can camp and fish and participate in water sports. Our visitors from the West are great sightseers who like to photograph our outstanding scenic resources and visit our historic places where they can recapture the true western atmosphere. Well planned and well maintained state parks in Montana will attract and hold these visitors once they come to our state.

EFFECT OF INTERSTATE HIGHWAY

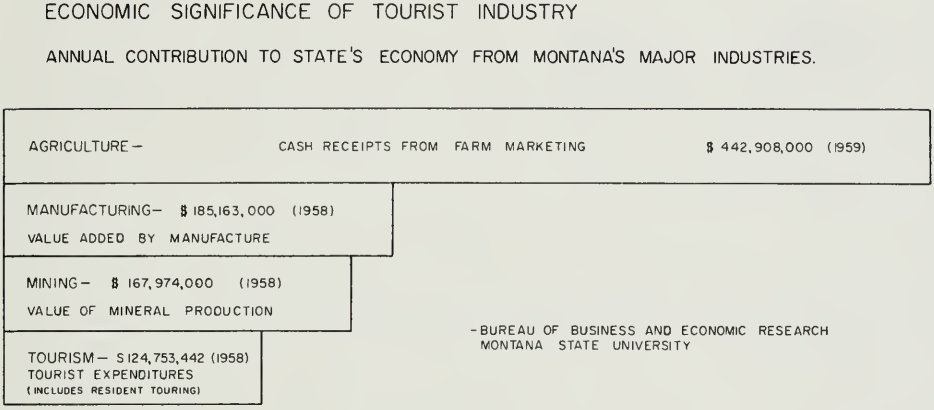
Although modern highways allow more visitors to reach Montana in a shorter period of time, we must remember that they also allow people to leave Montana sooner. The average length of stay of out-of-state visitors dropped from 4 days in 1958 to 3.6 days in 1959. With the completion of the Interstate Highway these visitors may spend even less time in the state.

Montana's state parks, historic sites, scenic overlooks, roadside parks and scenic and historic tour routes will be of great importance in keeping visitors longer. We must promote the other scenic resources of Montana and show the tourists that there are vacation destinations and "stop-overs" outside Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. However, promotion without the development of adequate recreation facilities will not do the job.

Nearly as important as attracting new visitors to the state for longer periods of time is the matter of keeping more Montana residents in the state for their own vacations. Facilities provided for the tourists will also be used by Montana residents — particularly during the off seasons.

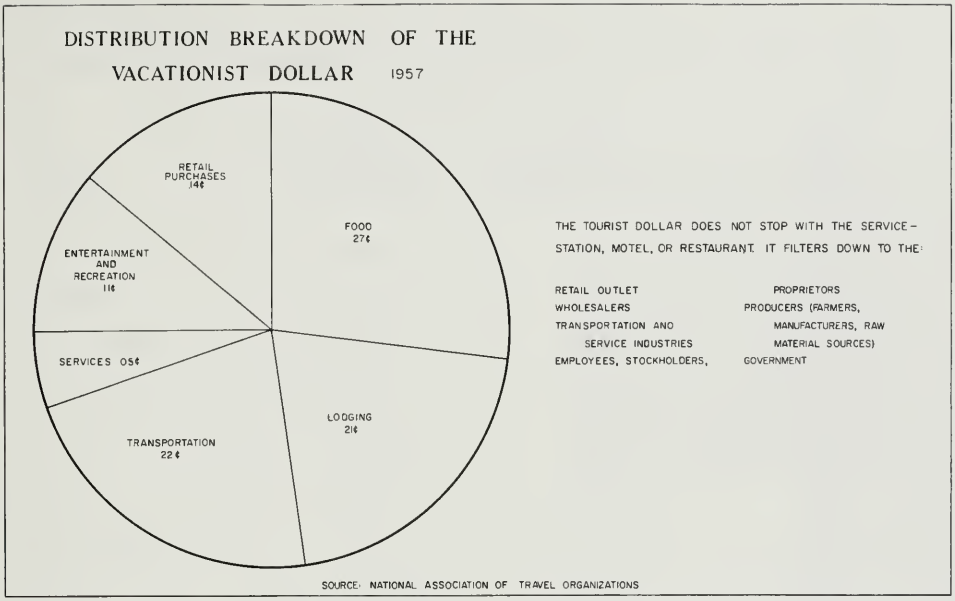
ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF TOURIST INDUSTRY

Annual Contribution to State's Economy from Montana's Major Industries


ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF TOURIST INDUSTRY
ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO STATE'S ECONOMY FROM MONTANA'S MAJOR INDUSTRIES.
AGRICULTURE – CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETING $ 442,908,000 (1959)
MANUFACTURING – $ 185,163,000 (1958)
VALUE ADDED BY MANUFACTURE
MINING – $ 167,974,000 (1958)
VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION
TOURISM – $124,753,442 (1958)
TOURIST EXPENDITURES
(INCLUDES RESIDENT TOURING)
- BUREAU OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

TOURIST'S CONTIRUBTION TO STATE'S ECONOMY

Rated among the top four industries in the state, the tourist business provides economic benefits based on an annual tourist expenditure of nearly $125,000,000. This "new" money added to the wealth of the state flows into every stream of business. It is estimated that over 2.5 million dollars is deposited in the state treasury through the gasoline tax obtained from visitor purchases. As other resources are used Montana's future wealth may depend more and more on its mountains, streams, lakes and forests — its scenic and recreation attractions. These resources — given adequate protection and development — will last forever and become increasingly valuable.



It is good business to provide adequately for the tourist. The average daily expenditure for each tourist party is estimated at $28.50. The average length of stay is 3.6 days. As residents of Montana we should be interested in making each tourist visit so pleasant and enjoyable that the visitor will want to return and stay longer and bring his friends.

Competition for tourist revenue is keen between the states and with Canada and overseas nations as well. Montana is fortunate in having high quality scenic and recreation resources which can provide for the recreation needs of the residents and for many more visitors than are attracted to the state at the present time. The world renowned beauty of Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks create a drawing power which is difficult to assess financially. Our location is such that we can attract visitors from both east-west and north-south routes of travel.

ANNUAL PER CAPITA EXPENDITURES FOR STATE PARKS — WESTERN UNITED STATES

State	1960 Population (thousands)	1959 Appropriated Expenditures	1959 Total Acreage
Utah	886	$1.12	7,030
Oregon	1,756	1.04	59,490
Washington	2,824	.881	73,195
California	15,537	.663	677,007
Idaho	664	.206	17,439
Nevada	281	.206	9,895
New Mexico	943	.146	5,041
Montana	668	.089	9,086
Wyoming	327	.044	151,886
Arizona	1,282	.036	4
Colorado*	1,736	.023	5,925

Acreage and expenditure figures from 1959 State Park Statistics.

*Colorado received a substantial increase in appropriation in 1960.

This is an equitable method of comparing state park expenditures.

The figures indicate an average of each individual's financial contribution through taxes to the state park program.

The appropriated expenditures are both direct and special appropriations to state park agencies. They do not include revenue from operations or any carryover funds.

Dr. Paul Blomgren, Dean of the School of Business Administration at Montana State University is optimistic about the future of the travel industry in Montana. His views are quoted in the following statement.

"Most certainly there is a present value of the travel industry to Montana. However, even more important is its future value. Here in Montana we have vast recreational resources that are only partially tapped. We have the opportunity by sound conservation and management to make these resources last for many decades to come - an opportunity that has been lost in many other areas where sound management was not practiced. If we utilize sound management we also have the opportunity of greatly expanding the use of recreational resources without exhausting or seriously depleting them. Expansion of their use by the traveling public from other states can be accomplished much faster than industrialization will take place. We believe this industry is one which holds great promise for rapid expansion and hence contribution to Montana's economy. We believe it is one deserving thorough study so that it can be expanded to advantage."

WHAT YOUR STATE PARKS MEAN-

TO YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS -

The opportunity to enjoy and learn from the outstanding natural scenic, scientific and historic interests your parks are dedicated to preserve

TO BUSINESS -

Develop outstanding interests, to bring in visitors and provide recreational opportunity for employees of prospective new industries in your state or county

TO THE NATION -

The privilege of all citizens to better understand their national heritage and culture which is basic to national unity, love of country and its survival

National Conference
on State Parks

PURPOSE OF STATE PARKS

The PURPOSE of the state park system in Montana as stated in Section 62-301 of the Montana Code says: "PURPOSE: That for the purpose of conserving the scenic, historic, archaeologic, scientific and recreational resources of the state, and of providing for their use and enjoyment, thereby contributing to the cultural, recreational and economic life of the people and their health, the state highway commission is hereby vested with the duties and powers hereinafter set forth".

The following sections of the Code go on to outline the powers and duties of the Commission.

As noted in the PURPOSE stated above the State Parks Division is required to perform three main functions: 1. Preserve the scenic, historic, archaeologic, scientific and recreational resources of the state. 2. Provide for their use and enjoyment. 3. Thereby contributing to the cultural, recreational and economic life of the people. It can be very quickly recognized that this is a monumental task but, a task that is worthy of the very best efforts of the State Parks Division and the people of the State of Montana.

GROWTH WITHOUT PLANNING

In order to carry out the functions as outlined in the PURPOSE a great deal of planning is necessary so that the objectives of the State Parks Division may be carried out in an orderly a manner as it is possible to achieve. To date the park system has grown rather haphazardly. That is to say that the expansion of the system has not been achieved by any set plan of growth. New areas have been added to the system because public spirited citizens or groups have seen fit to give areas to the state for park purposes and because the Parks Division has been able to cooperate with state and federal agencies in acquiring reservoir areas for recreation purposes. Montana has been fortunate in that most of the areas acquired (at no cost to the state) are well located geographically and are areas that have scenic, recreational or historic values.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

We cannot, however, expect that the good fortunes of the park system will continue in future years. Planning for an orderly development is necessary and it must be recognized that purchases of land for park and recreation purposes is an immediate necessity if Montana intends to have and preserve our scenic and recreational resources for future citizens. It is no secret that Montana has a number of scenic areas that are no longer available to the general public. These areas have been acquired by private interests and the public has no access to them. This is not meant as a criticism of these private individuals, but rather it points up the laxity of the State of Montana in acquiring and developing these areas for public use. Montana is not at the crossroads in land acquisition for park purposes. The crossroads went by long ago. Our position now is to attempt to preserve something out of what is left and time is no longer in our favor. The cost of land acquisition is high and we can only assume that it will continue to rise. Our conclusion is that land acquisition for park purposes must be accomplished in the immediate future.

AREAS OF NEED

More specifically, new areas should be located in the Lewistown area, the Billings area and along the high line in northern Montana. Existing areas should be enlarged in the Flathead region and here we have specific reference to the parks located on Flathead Lake and on Whitefish Lake. As of right now these parks in the Flathead area are much too small to accommodate the large numbers of campers, picnickers, boaters and swimmers that would like to use them each summer. Montana also needs state parks along such outstanding, nationally known rivers as the Madison, Yellowstone, Big Hole, Blackfoot, Jefferson, Gallatin and Bitterroot.

HISTORIC SITES

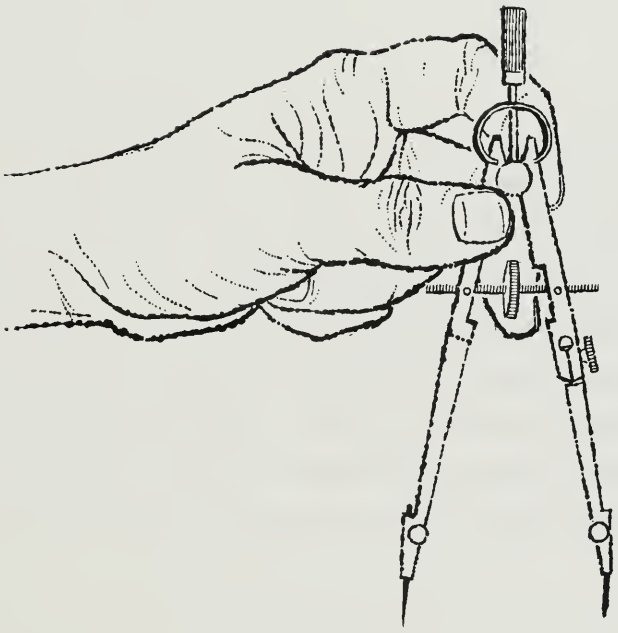
The Historic Sites program of the State Parks Division needs immediate attention. We now have four such sites in the system . . . Missouri River Headwaters, Bannack, Fort Owen and Chief Joseph Battlefield. Preliminary development and interpretation for these areas has been started, but much still needs to be accomplished at each site to make it a truly historic monument. In addition to these areas there are many other historic sites in Montana that should be preserved. Such places as Pompey's Pillar, Fort C. F. Smith, Fort Assinniboine, Fort Logan, an outstanding Buffalo Jump, an historic mining town as well as many, many other sites too numerous to mention should be acquired and preserved as an integral part of the history of Montana.

Dr. Stanley R. Davidson of Western Montana College of Education makes the following statement about the importance of preserving historic sites: "The ground where an historic event occurred or where a pioneer structure stood is like a document related to that event or building. Battlefields and forts, smelters and mills, missions and trading posts, all were influenced by their locations, and cannot be fully understood and appreciated without seeing the grounds. It is more than a sentimental whim which causes tourists, and historians, to travel miles to see an historic location, to be able to say 'this is the very spot where . . .' Such sites need to be kept as nearly as can be in their original shape; after the shovel and bulldozer do their work, signs and monuments can still identify a place, but much significance is lost when the lay of the land is changed.

"Visitors often comment how lucky we are to have many historic sites still unspoiled, in contrast to states where a marker is all that remains to identify many a point of significance.

"The State Parks Division is an important agency in preserving these sites and making them available by signs, roads and facilities to encourage visitors to linger for a viewing of the grounds. People respond by doing just that, sometimes staying in a locality an extra day to have a good look at historic areas which are attractive and accessible. Montana's historic sites within state parks constitute a good start, but they need expansion and further development; and they are just a sample of what might be done with a dozen or so additional places. Many of these are already threatened with final obliteration, and others are vulnerable. Action to identify, acquire and protect them must come speedily. Once this is done, there is time to deliberate on whether a spot justifies costly restoration, or more simple markers, signs and displays. As population grows and industry expands, the need for these historical shrines becomes more pressing. In a few years there will be no further chance to save some of our best attractions."

PROGRAM OF ACTION



THE PROGRAM

If we can conclude that the State of Montana does indeed intend to preserve its scenic, recreational, scientific and historic areas and make them available to its citizens and to the many visitors we have in the state each year, it is imperative that a sound state park program be started immediately. Such a program will require long range planning and an adequate appropriation from the State Legislature.

PLANNING

A thorough study must be made of the existing state park system with a master plan for the development of each park. This master plan will include the road system, parking areas, and trails; utility systems for water supply, power distribution and sanitary facilities; adequate staffing for protection and maintenance; quarters for permanent or seasonal employees; public boat launching ramps or docks; campgrounds and picnic areas; shelter houses and change houses; concession developments; and signs including roadside exhibits. In the historic monuments, additional planning must be done for building, stabilization, rehabilitation, reconstruction and for their interpretation and protection.

ACQUISITION

Additional lands adjacent to existing parks are badly needed for expansion and development. The three parks on Flathead Lake are so small that they can provide little more than public access to the lake itself. They show extreme over use, and there is not enough available space for suitable public recreation development. It is not difficult to see that additional land for parks is urgently needed around Flathead Lake. A two year planning study can determine how much land is needed and where it is needed. This land is very expensive and difficult to acquire and becoming more so each year. If any of this magnificent shoreline is to be saved for public use, it must be acquired immediately.

In addition to the expansion of existing parks where needed, new parks should be added to the system especially for more heavily populated sections of the state where nearby recreation opportunities are limited. These parks should have a good geographical distribution, should have pleasant surroundings and should be suitable for park use and development. Wherever possible, they should contain an outstanding example of the scenery of that portion of the state or preserve unusual geologic features or interesting botanical associations.

Not enough emphasis has been placed on the importance of preserving Montana's historical heritage. Most of our own residents and our visitors are very interested in the history of the West and like to visit historic sites. In the present park system, we have four historic sites that have not been properly developed, protected or interpreted. Good planning and development is urgently needed to make these places meaningful to the visitors.

There are many other important historic sites in Montana which have not been preserved for posterity. Some of these should be acquired immediately before their important values are completely destroyed.

STAFFING

The headquarters staff of the State Parks Division consists of the Director and his secretary. In order to bring the parks up to standard and also plan for the future, this staff should be increased by the addition of a permanent field supervisor with experience in park maintenance and construction, a qualified landscape architect or park planner and a clerk-typist. This would allow the Director to devote more time to the overall administration of the Montana State Park system without being tied down by administrative details and field inspections over the entire state.

THE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE FOR TEN YEAR PROGRAM

First Two Years

1. Increase headquarters staff to implement needed long range planning. Fill Park Planner, Field Supervisor and clerk-typist positions.
2. Complete master plan studies for ten units of the existing state park system.
3. Complete general development on five pilot parks.
4. Begin land acquisition to expand existing parks, where needed.
5. Acquire four new areas for future development.

First Five Years

1. Continue state-side planning to determine areas of need and investigate potential recreation resources to fill these needs.
2. Complete master plans for all units of the state park system.
3. Complete general development on fifteen units of the existing system including necessary land acquisition for proper development and administration.
4. Have land acquisition completed and master plan developed for a total of ten new areas.

SCHEDULE FOR TEN YEAR PROGRAM (Continued)

Second Five Years

1. Fill position of Assistant State Park Director.
2. Fill additional field positions necessary to assure year-round maintenance and protection of new developments.
3. Acquire land and complete master plans for ten new parks.
4. Complete development of 15 existing parks and ten new parks.
5. Submit report to Legislature on the accomplishments of the ten year program.
6. Submit plan to Legislature for next ten year program based on existing and anticipated needs.

At the end of the ten year program Montana will have a good system of state parks comprising at least forty units well distributed throughout the state and developed to take care of the anticipated visitor needs. These parks will consist of large, natural scenic parks, recreation areas, historic sites and scientific monuments. The headquarters staff will be sufficient to carry out an effective state park program. There will be an adequate field staff for the proper management, maintenance and protection of the state parks and their developments.

ADEQUATE FINANCING REQUIRED

The State Parks Division is now operating twenty-two state parks on an annual budget of $95,000 -- $60,000 from direct appropriation and $35,000 of earned revenue from operations. This budget is not sufficient for the proper operation and maintenance of all the parks. It does not provide funds for planned developments, land acquisition, or adequate supervision. As a result, many of the parks are relatively undeveloped and some of them do not contain sufficient land for suitable development.

PROPOSED BUDGET

If we expect, therefore, to bring the existing parks up to a standard and expand the system as indicated in the ten year program, the following budget will be necessary:

1961	Basic Budget (For operations and maintenance of existing parks including repairs and replacements)	$135,000
	Increase Headquarters Staff (To provide adequate planning and supervision)	
	Park Planner	6,500
	Field Supervisor	6,000
	Clerk Typist	3,600
	Increase Field Staff	
	1 Permanent Superintendent	4,800
	2 Seasonal Caretakers	2,000
	Planning	2,500
	Capital Improvements (Includes access roads, parking areas, trails, signs, latrines, fireplaces, picnic tables, shelters, storage, and seasonal quarters)	50,000
	Land Acquisition	40,000
	Total 1961	$250,400

1962	Basic Budget (Administration, operations, maintenance, repairs and replacements)	$150,000
	Increase Planning Staff	
	Engineering Draftsman	4,800
	Increase Field Staff	
	Permanent Superintendent	4,800
	Seasonal Caretaker	1,200
	Capital Improvements	50,000
	Land Acquisition	48,400
	TOTAL 1962	$259,200
1963	Basic Budget	$160,000
	Increase field staff	
	Seasonal Caretaker	1,500
	Capital Improvements	50,000
	Land Acquisition	48,500
	TOTAL 1963	$260,000
1964	Basic Budget	$160,000
	Increase field staff	
	Seasonal Caretaker	1,500
	Capital Improvements	50,000
	Land Acquisition	48,500
	TOTAL 1964	$260,000
1965	Basic Budget	$170,000
	Increase field staff	
	Permanent Superintendent	4,800
	Capital Improvements	50,000
	Land Acquisition	40,000
	TOTAL 1965	$264,800

Accomplishments at end of five years:

Headquarters staff increased by addition of Park Planner, Field Supervisor, Engineering Draftsman and Clerk-Typist.

Field staff increased by three permanent superintendents and five seasonal caretakers and maintenance men.

Fifteen parks fully developed for public recreation use at total cost of $250,000.

Land acquired for ten new parks and for needed expansion of existing parks at a total cost of $225,400.

Master plans completed for fifteen existing parks and ten new parks.

Field investigations made of potential recreation resources of state.

1966	Basic Budget	$175,000
	Increase Headquarters Staff	
	Assistant State Park Director	7,500
	Capital Improvements	65,000
	Land Acquisition	50,000
	TOTAL 1966	$297,500
1967	Basic Budget	$180,000
	Increase Field Staff	
	Permanent Superintendent	4,800
	2 Seasonal Caretakers	3,000
	Capital Improvements	62,000
	Land Acquisition	50,000
	TOTAL 1967	$299,800
1968	Basic Budget	$190,000
	Increase Field Staff	
	2 Seasonal Caretakers	3,000
	Capital Improvements	63,500
	Land Acquisition	50,000
	TOTAL 1968	$306,500
1969	Basic Budget	$195,000
	Increase Field Staff	
	2 Seasonal Caretakers	3,000
	Capital Improvements	63,200
	Land Acquisition	50,000
	TOTAL 1969	$311,200
1970	Basic Budget	$200,000
	Increase Field Staff	
	Permanent Superintendent	4,800
	2 Seasonal Caretakers	3,000
	Capital Improvements	62,000
	Land Acquisition	50,000
	TOTAL 1970	$319,800

Accomplishments at end of ten years:

Number of parks in State Park system	42
Number developed	32
Number with permanent superintendents	7
Number with seasonal caretakers	25

Total annual expenditures for Montana state parks in 1970: $319,800.

IN 1959 THERE WERE TWENTY STATES THAT HAD EXPENDITURES OF OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR FOR STATE PARKS.

NEED FOR DEPENDABLE SOURCE OF FUNDS

In order to program construction and development work over a period of ten years, a dependable source of funds is essential.

In Montana all parks are free to the public. Revenue is obtained from guide fees at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park and from cabin site and concession leases at Canyon Ferry and Tiber Reservoirs. This earned revenue from operations amounts to about $35,000. The Legislature appropriates about $60,000 annually to operate and maintain the twenty-two existing parks. There are no funds available for land acquisition and development.

Many states have entrance charges for their parks and also have charges for camping, boating and other services. Montana could also charge for these services -- but not until campsites, water systems and sanitation are developed to provide the needs of the travelers. Additional staff would be needed to collect the fees and quarters would have to be provided for the staff. After completion of the ten year program, some revenues could be realized from this source. In 1959 Michigan received $351,150 from camping fees alone. Of course, we must realize that Michigan has 6,000 developed campsites in its state parks. The facilities frequently include electricity, flush toilets, showers and laundry.

POSSIBLE METHODS OF FINANCING PROGRAM

Although the principal sources of funds for most states are from appropriations and revenues from the operation of facilities and services, several states have established other methods of financing their state park programs.

1. California receives a percentage of the off-shore oil royalties and Oklahoma receives funds from oil and gas leases.

2. Indiana charges admissions and collects a percentage of mineral royalties on state lands.

3. Alabama receives revenue from sand, gravel and oil royalties.

4. Kansas obtains funds from Forestry, Fish and Game Commission revenues.

5. Oregon receives a direct appropriation of $1,878,000 from State Highway Department revenues.

6. Colorado and New Mexico receive some funds from boat permit and inspection fees.

7. Minnesota sells annual stickers for use of state parks.

8. Washington obtains $2.20 from each annual driver's license.

9. Some states receive a percentage of certain fines.

10. Both Missouri and Nebraska State Park Funds come from a percentage of a mill levy on all real property taxable by the state.

SUGGESTED METHODS OF FINANCING

A STATE PARK PROGRAM

IN MONTANA

1. A percentage of the mill levy on all real property taxable by the state for the exclusive purpose of providing a state park fund.

2. An increase in the motor vehicle operators license to provide funds for state parks.

3. A state sales tax on all outdoor recreation equipment; articles such as tents, trailers, sleeping bags, winter sports equipment, boats, boat motors, and water sports equipment.

SUMMARY

There is every indication that the demand for outdoor recreation will continue to increase during the next ten years. Montana is in the fortunate position that it can continue to expand its state parks to meet that demand. Some eastern states find that their visitation is increasing at a slower rate -- largely due to the fact that some of the parks have reached the saturation point.

It is logical to assume that these people will go elsewhere for their outdoor recreation -- someplace like MONTANA where conditions are less crowded.

Why do we want these out-of-state visitors? Because they purchase merchandise and services which Montanans can provide. They add wealth to the State's economy. ($$$ 88 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY $$$) They make Montana a better place in which to live.

What do they find here? Besides our outstanding scenery which they all enjoy, they find we have made few provisions to take care of the visitors' needs. For example, we have not provided adequate facilities for camping and picnicking. We have not adequately preserved and interpreted the historic sites to make their stay more interesting. We do not help them learn more about Montana by providing exhibits and programs for their information and enjoyment.

What are we going to do for the future? We recommend:

(1) That a long range program of action covering a period of ten years be undertaken immediately.

(2) That advance planning be a part of the program to provide for the orderly growth and development of the state park system and each of its units.

(3) That staffing should be increased to plan, develop, administer and maintain these parks so that they may continue to be an asset to the State.

(4) That each park be developed according to plans to provide for the needs of its visitors.

(5) That land be acquired to expand the parks which already have a heavy concentration of use, to obtain lands for new parks in areas where people now have little opportunity to enjoy outdoor recreation, and to acquire important historic sites before their values are destroyed; and

(6) That funds be provided to finance the planning, the development, the staffing and the land acquisition to bring the parks up to a standard to be proud of by the year 1970.

This calls for a PROGRAM OF ACTION and with your support, your State Parks Division is prepared to carry it out.

* * * * * *

"Leisure for everybody, a condition which we are now approaching, is a new thing under the sun — the most revolutionary thing that ever happened. Here is our chance .... we may choose this way of life or pass it by."

THE VALUE OF PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL LANDS

A quotation from Dr. C. Frank Brockman of the University of Washington in his statement on "Economic Value of Outdoor Recreational Lands":

"The business of serving the public's interests in outdoor recreation is extensive. It is a major factor in the economic stability of many sections of the country . . . . monetary return through recreational uses is often found to be greater than if the area were used for any other purpose.

"Public outdoor recreational lands, such as state and national parks, and recreational areas in the national forests, are significant cornerstones in the "recreational industry" of any region. Although agencies administering such areas do not derive financial support from this use of lands under their control, these public lands induce travel into the regions, and therefore generate expenditures of considerable magnitude. In effect, such areas are a subsidy to the recreation business.

"However, public outdoor recreational lands were not established for the purpose of showing a direct monetary profit. Their principle objective is to provide opportunity for a variety of constructive interests and activities necessary to the health and welfare of the people and to make these benefits available to anyone at minimum costs. Although these primary values of public outdoor recreational lands undoubtedly are reflected in the national economy through improved individual productivity, they cannot be measured accurately in dollars and cents. Thus, any estimate of the economic value of recreation reflects only the minimum return from such activity.

"The value of outdoor recreational areas can be marketed indefinitely, provided these values are known and understood, and managed in a manner that will ensure their proper maintenance. The values contained in outdoor recreational areas are fragile. Like the fabled goose and the golden egg, they can be destroyed by over-use or improper development in an effort to make them function purely as profit producing enterprises."

LANDS ADMINISTERED BY STATE AGENCIES ---- WHICH RECEIVE PUBLIC RECREATION USE

STATE PARKS DIVISION - MONTANA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

At the present time there are 22 areas in the Montana State Park System. These areas can be grouped into the general classifications of parks, historic monuments and recreation areas. Out of the 9,130 acres of land and water involved only 120 acres have been purchased for state parks. The remainder of the land has been acquired by transfer from other agencies, by donation and by lease.

MAINTENANCE DIVISION - MONTANA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The rest stops, roadside picnic areas, scenic overlooks and the historic sign turn-outs along the highways throughout the state are the responsibility of this division. Few of these areas have sanitary facilities or water supply unless they have been developed by county or city governments, civic clubs, service clubs, veterans organizations or private companies in cooperation with the Montana State Highway Department.

MONTANA STATE FORESTS

Seven state forests with an area of approximately 199,000 acres have been created through a consolidation of forested, state-owned lands in western Montana. Although these lands are primarily for timber management, they are available to the public for recreation - especially fishing and hunting. Summer home sites have been leased on some of the attractive lakes and campgrounds and picnic areas have been provided for the public. Recreation use is not considered a primary responsibility of the Office of the State Forester.

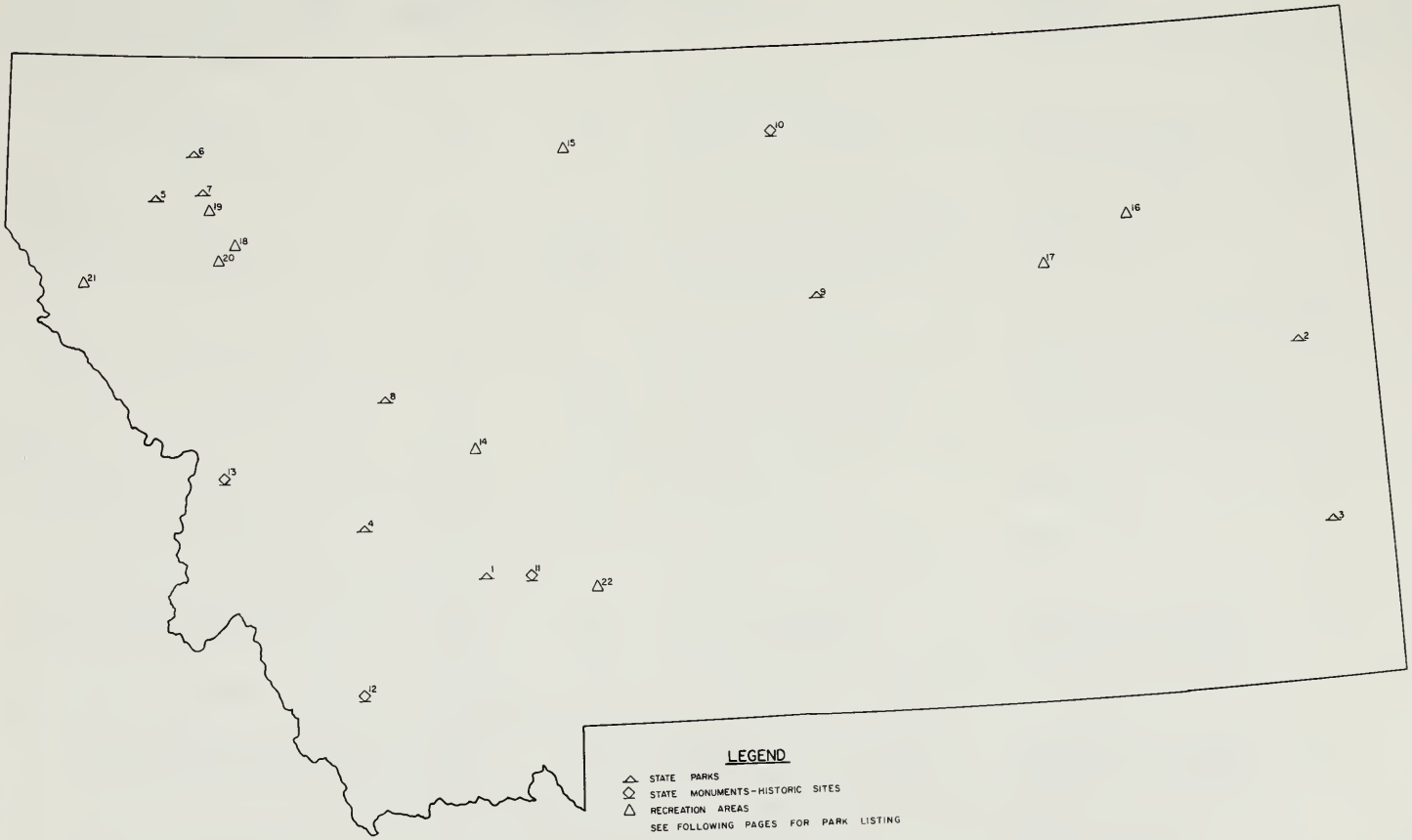
MONTANA FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

Tracts of land have been acquired by the Fish and Game Department for public fishing and hunting. Other land is administered for game ranges and refuges and for waterfowl development and habitat improvement. The Department is also responsible for administering the fishing, hunting, and boating regulations and for fisheries and game management throughout the state. Few recreation facilities have been provided on the lands under the jurisdiction of this department.

MONTANA WATER - RESOURCES BOARD

Many of the reservoirs that have been constructed by the Water Resources Board are used for fishing and some for boating although this use is not encouraged by any development of facilities. Some of these reservoirs could have good recreation area potential.

MONTANA STATE PARKS



MONTANA STATE PARKS	ON MAP	DATE ESTABLISHED	AMT. OF ACREAGE	LOCATION	FACILITIES
Bannack State Monument	(12)	1954	50 A.	21 Miles W. of Dillon off U. S. #91	Picnicking, Camping, Historic Site.
Birdland State Park	(21)	1960	25 A.	2 Mi. W. of Thompson Falls off of U. S. 10 A	Picnicking, Fishing, Swimming, Boating, Camping.
Bitterroot Lake State Park	(5)	1941	30 A.	20 Mi. W. of Kalispell & 5 Mi.N. ofU.S.2 at Marion	Picnicking, Fishing, Boating, Swimming, Camping.
Bridger Mountain S. P.	(22)	1950	120 A.	16 Mi. N. of Bozeman in Bridger Canyon	Winter Sports
Canyon Ferry Recr.Area	(14)	1954	1800 A.	20 Mi. S.E. of Helena off U. S. 12	Picnicking, Fishing, Boating, Camping.
Chief Joseph State Mon.	(10)	1959	160 A.	16 Mi. S. of Chinook off U. S. 2	Picnicking, Historic Site.
Flathead Lake S. P.	(20)	1952	15 A.	15 Mi.N. of Polson on U. S. 93	Picnicking, Fishing, Boating, and Camping.
Fort Owen St.Monument	(13)	1956	1 A.	At Stevensville off U. S. 93	Historic Site.
Hell Creek State Park	(17)	1949	200 A.	26 Mi. N. of Jordan off Montana 20	Picnicking, Fishing, Boating, Swimming and camping.
Hooper State Park	(8)	1954	17 A.	At Lincoln on Mont. 20	Picnicking and Camping.
James Kipp State Park	(9)	1959	400 A.	65 Miles N. of Lewistown on Montana 19	Picnicking, Fishing, Swimming, Boating and Camping.
Lewis & Clark Caverns	(1)	1940	2700 A.	18 Mi. East of Whitehall on U. S. 10	Picnicking, Camping and Unusual Scenery.

MONTANA STATE PARKS	ON MAP	DATE ESTABLISHED	AMT. OF ACREAGE	LOCATION	FACILITIES
Lone Pine State Park	(7)	1941	160 A.	3 Mi. SW of Kalispell off U. S. 2	Picnicking, Camping and Unusual Scenery.
Lost Creek State Park	(4)	1957	400 A.	6 Mi. N. of Anaconda off U. S. 10 A	Unusual Scenery, Picnicking, and Camping.
Makoshika State Park	(2)	1953	784 A.	3 Mi. S. of Glendive off U. S. 10	Unusual Scenery, Picnicking, and Camping.
Medicine Rocks S. P.	(3)	1957	320 A.	12 Mi.N. of Ekalaka on Montana 7	Unusual Scenery, Picnicking.
Missouri River Headwaters St.Monument	(11)	1947	9 A.	3 Mi. East of Three Forks & 3 Mi.N. off U. S. 10	Historic Site, Unusual Scenery, Picnicking, Fishing, Camping.
Rock Creek State Park	(16)	1949	200 A.	35 Mi. S. of Fort Peck on E.Shore of Fort Peck Res.	Picnicking, Fishing, Swimming, Boating and Camping.
Tiber Reservoir Areas	(15)	1957	1500 A.	18 Mi. SW. of Chester, off U. S. 2	Picnicking, Fishing, Swimming, Boating and Camping.
West Shore State Park	(19)	1955	68 A.	20 Mi. S. of Kalispell on U.S. 93 on Flathead Lake	Picnicking, Fishing, Swimming, Boating and Camping.
Whitefish Lake S. P.	(6)	1960	15 A.	3 Mi. W. of Whitefish on U.S. 93	Picnicking, Fishing, Swimming, Boating and Camping.
Yellow Bay State Park	(18)	1941	15 A.	20 Mi. N. of Polson on Mont. 35	Picnicking, Fishing, Swimming, Boating and Camping.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE DIENNIUM

During the 1959 - 1960 biennium the State Parks Division has had the busiest two years of its existence. Highlights of our operations during this period are discussed under the following headings:

ATTENDANCE

The attendance at all state parks and monuments in the system has continued to rise during the current biennium. We noticed a particularly strong increase during the 1960 season . . . . at least 15%. Based on estimates for previous years this would make the attendance at all state parks during 1960 approximately 350,000. This is by far the biggest year in attendance that the State Parks Division has ever had. In some instances we would have had more people in the parks, however, because of lack of space and lack of facilities we just didn't have the room to accommodate any more people.

NEW FACILITIES

During the biennium the Parks Division placed new facilities in most of the parks and many existing facilities were repaired or replaced. By June 30, 1961, we will have installed 250 new picnic tables, 150 new fireplaces, 20 single and double latrines, completed 3 water systems, installed new roofs and rehabilitated some of the buildings at Bannack State Monument, completed 20 new campsites at Lewis and Clark Caverns, installed 3 new floodlighting systems, improved access roads at several of the parks as well as repairs to existing structures. In addition, the Parks Division provided caretakers at all of the parks and monuments for proper maintenance and operation.

NEW FACILITIES (Continued)

Proper maintenance of the parks is perhaps one of the most important tasks of the Parks Division. As the park system continues to grow and as attendance increases each year we can expect that our maintenance problem will also increase.

NEW PARKS

Three new parks were added to the system during the past two years. JAMES KIPP STATE PARK located on Montana Highway 19 where it crosses the Missouri River at the Fred Robinson Bridge was added during the summer of 1959. This park contains 420 acres and was acquired by lease from the U. S. Corps of Engineers at no cost to the State of Montana.

BIRDLAND STATE PARK (or THOMPSON FALLS STATE PARK, depending upon a proposed name change) is located on Noxon Reservoir 3 miles west of Thompson Falls. This park contains about 25 acres and was obtained by lease from the Washington Water Power Company at no cost to the state.

NELSON RESERVOIR RECREATION AREA is located on Nelson Reservoir about 15 miles northeast of Malta. This park contains 228 acres and was obtained by lease from the Bureau of Reclamation at no cost to the state.

Basic facilities have been placed at James Kipp and at Birdland state parks. Facilities will be placed at Nelson Reservoir in the spring of 1961.

CANYON FERRY AND TIBER RESERVOIR IMPROVEMENTS

In the fall of 1959 the State Parks Division entered into an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation whereby the Parks Division would install certain

CANYON FERRY AND TIBER IMPROVEMENTS (Continued)

facilities at each of these reservoirs and would be reimbursed for 100% of their cost by the Bureau of Reclamation. By June 30, 1961 the Parks Division will have installed at these two reservoirs 159 new picnic tables, 97 new fireplaces, 106 refuse cans, 6 boat ramps, 16 single latrines, 4 double latrines, 12 incinerators, 11 small shelter buildings, 3 large shelter buildings, 10 water systems, plus miscellaneous fencing, access roads, tree planting and erosion control. This work was accomplished in addition to the improvements mentioned above in the other state parks of the system.

APPRECIATION

* * *

The State Parks Division is grateful for the assistance and cooperation of the following agencies in the preparation of this report.

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Bureau of Reclamation
Provided some of the pictures used in the report.

Montana Fish and Game Department
Provided some of the pictures used in the report.